(b) the total numbr of such ventures introduced through automatic route despite the foreign companies already having joint ventures in the same or allied field; and

(c) the amount of FDI involved in such ventures?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (c) 14551 proposals involving foreign financial and technical collaboration with total Foreign Direct Investment amounting to Rs. 181391.55 crore have been approved from January, 1991 up to December, 31, 1998. As per Press Note No. 18 of 1998 Series dated 14.12.98 read with Press Release dated 14.1.99 foreign financial and technical collaborators with previous or existing joint ventures in India can no longer access the Automatic Approval Route for promoting new ventures (either partially or wholly owned) in the same or allied activity in which there are/or have been existing earlier ventures involving the same collaborator. No such case has been reported after the issue of the above said Press Note.

Growth centres in the country

1301. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the development of growth centres in the country; state-wise;

(b) the release of funds by the Government to strengthen these growth centres; and

(c) the present status of each growth centre?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (c) The information is as per the attached annexure which is based on the information supplied by the States. (*See* Appendix 186, Annexure No-24)

Revival of sick SSIs

1302. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various small scale industries functioning at present in different States of the country, particularly in the North-eastern region are sick and need to be revived; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps being taken by Government to revive all these sick units of the country?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BHKHT): (a) as per the data collected by the Reserve Bank of India at the end of March, 1998, there were 2,21,536 sick Small Scale Industries in the country including North-Eastern Region, out of which 18,686 units were identified as potentially viable. Banks have already put 13,063 sick small scale units under nursing. The State-wise details for number of sick small scale industries, potentially viable industries and sick units put under nursing are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(b) Government have taken various steps from time to time for the revival of potentially viable sick small scale units. These include modification in definition of sick small scale units, reduced rate of interest for rehabilitation, prompt viability studies/nursing programmes of identified sick units, setting up of cells at important regional centres and Head Office to deal with sick industrial units and provision of expert staff, including technical personnel to look into technical aspects. State Level Inter-Institutional Committees exist under the Chairmanship of secretary (Industries) of the State Government including North-Eastern Region for revival of sick units.